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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: ELAB, SP OEXC (SANTAMARIA, MARIA CARMEN; AND VIGRE, JULIA)
SUBJECT: FY 78 IV PROGRAM: VISIT OF TWO SPANISH TEACHERS' UNION OFFICERS

FOR ECA/IV, EUR/WE(STATE), AND ILAB(DOL)

REF: MADRID 7847

1. THE NOMINEE OF THE UGT'S FEDERATION OF TEACHERS (FETE) IS JULIA VIGRE, BORN FEBRUARY 27, 1918, IN MADRID. SHE IS A MEMBER OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION. PRACTICALLY A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE FETE, SHE HAS BEEN A TRADE UNION AND SOCIALIST PARTY ACTIVIST SINCE THE LATE 1930'S. SHE IS GREATLY RESPECTED AMONG FETE TEACHERS FOR HER TIRELESS STRUGGLE FOR TRADE UNION RIGHTS. VIGRE SPENT 7 OR 8 YEARS IN PRISON FOR "ILLEGAL" TRADE UNION ACTIVITY DURING TWO SEPARATE PERIODS OF THE FRANCO REGIME (THE FIRST IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE END OF THE CIVIL WAR), AND AT ONE POINT WAS SENTENCED TO DEATH (LATER COMMUTED). MAILING ADDRESS: C/O FETE, DOCTOR ESQUERDO 112, BAJO F, MADRID 30, SPAIN. VIGRE SPEAKS
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NO ENGLISH.

2. AS PROMISED IN REFTEL, WE INCLUDE BELOW SOME MORE SPECIFIC AND PERSONAL INTERESTS OF THE NOMINEES. SANTA-MARIA OF THE BASQUE STV IS INTERESTED IN LEARNING AS MUCH ABOUT THE U.S. EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM (PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND UNIVERSITY - PRIVATE AND PUBLIC) AS POSSIBLE IN THE TIME

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AVAILABLE. THIS INTEREST WOULD ALSO SPECIFICALLY INCLUDE VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS AND NORMAL COLLEGES (THE LATTER DO NOT EXIST IN SPAIN). INASMUCH AS SHE IS CURRENTLY WORKING IN THE DEUSTO UNIVERSITY (JESUIT) LIBRARY, SHE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SOME AMERICAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES (SUGGEST GEORGETOWN UNIVERISTY IN WASHINGTON -- ALSO JESUIT -- AND PERHAPS STANFORD ON WEST COAST, AND/OR SOME APPROPRIATE SMALLER COLLEGES IN PHILADELPHIA, ATLANTA, AND NEW ORLEANS -- SEE REFTEL). FINALLY, SHE HAS A PERSONAL INTEREST IN MUSIC AND ART, AND WOULD APPRECIATE EXPOSURE TO SOME MUSEUMS AND CONCERTS.

3. VIGRE'S PARTICULAR INTERESTS ARE AS FOLLOWS. SHE ALSO IS INTERESTED IN THE GENERAL EDUCATION SYSTEM, INCLUDING VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS AND NORMAL COLLEGES. THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOLS -- AND WHETHER THERE IS ANY MIXING OF THE TWO -- IS A SPECIFIC QUESTION. OTHER INTERESTS: THE TRAINING OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS, HOW THEY ACTUALLY SECURE JOBS IN TEACHING, AND THEIR NORMAL CAREER PATTERNS (INCLUDING PERIODIC TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR UPDATING AND SUPPLEMENTING A TEACHER'S KNOWLEDGE); ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS (IN SPAIN, SOME ONE MILLION ADULTS HAVEN'T COMPLETED PRIMARY AND SOME 3 MILLION HAVEN'T COMPLETED SECONDARY SCHOOLING); AND FINALLY, SPANISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL SYSTEMS THAT MIGHT EXIST (FOR UNCLASSIFIED

PUERTO RICANS OR CUBANS --).

4. EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT TO CERTAIN EXTENT THE TWO NOMINEES HAVE DIVERSE INTERESTS. HOWEVER, WE STILL RECOMMEND THEY TRAVEL TOGETHER IN JOINT PROGRAM AS FAR AS VARIOUS CITIES ARE CONCERNED (I.E. PHILADELPHIA, ATLANTA, SAN FRANCISCO, AND NEW ORLEANS). HOWEVER, IN SELECTED CASES -- IF FEASIBLE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERPRETER NEEDS -- THEY COULD POSSIBLY HAVE SOME SEPARATE PROGRAMS IN SOME CITIES.

5. JULIA VIGRE WILL ARRIVE IN NEW YORK CITY ON AUGUST 6 (TWA 903, ARRIVING NY KENNEDY AT 1515) FOR A PRIVATE VISIT OF ONE WEEK PRIOR TO COMMENCING OFFICIAL PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 14. SHE WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON SAME FLIGHT AS SANTAMARIA, I.E. ON BRANIFF 101, DEPARTING NEW YORK KENNEDY AT 1715, ARRIVING WASHINGTON DULLES AT 1835, AUGUST 13. VALLIMARESCO

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